



AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No. 10/820,774

Atty. Docket No. Q80987

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for the preparation of a water-soluble glucose polymer having an ion-exchanging ability comprising the steps of drying a mixed aqueous solution containing a raw glucose polymer and a polyvalent carboxylic acid to thus form a uniform powdery mixture and then subjecting the powdery mixture to a heat treatment,

wherein the raw glucose polymer and the polyvalent carboxylic acid are first dissolved in water to form an aqueous solution,

wherein the raw glucose polymer is at least one member selected from the group consisting of oxidized starch, starch hydrolyzates, hydrogenated starch hydrolyzates and digestion-resistant starch hydrolyzates and the average degree of polymerization thereof ranges from 4 to 123, and

wherein the temperature of the powder upon the heat-treatment ranges from 100 to 125° C.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended): The method for the preparation of a water-soluble glucose polymer of claim 1, wherein the raw glucose polymer is at least one member selected from the group consisting of oxidized starch, starch hydrolyzates, hydrogenated starch hydrolyzates and digestion-resistant starch hydrolyzates and the average degree of polymerization thereof ranges from 4 to 18.

4. (currently amended): The method for the preparation of a water-soluble glucose polymer ~~as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 3~~ of claim 1, wherein the polyvalent carboxylic acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of citric acid, succinic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid and tartaric acid.

5. (currently amended): The method for the preparation of a water-soluble glucose polymer ~~as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 4~~ of claim 1, wherein the glucose polymer has an ion-exchanging ability index as expressed by the function: $Y = AB$ (Y represents an ion-exchanging ability index, A represents the amount of linked polyvalent carboxylic acid and B represents an esterification index) ranging from 0.1 to 0.5.

Claims 6-7 (canceled).

8. (currently amended): The method for the preparation of a water-soluble glucose polymer ~~as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 7 of claim 1~~, wherein the mixing ratio (molar ratio) of the raw glucose polymer to the polyvalent carboxylic acid ranges from 1.5: 1 to 9:1.

9. (currently amended): A composition comprising a water-soluble glucose polymer prepared according to the method ~~as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 8 of claim 1~~ and having an ion-exchanging ability.

10. (currently amended): A builder comprising a water-soluble glucose polymer prepared according to the method ~~as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 8 of claim 1~~.

11. (original): A detergent comprising a builder as set forth in claim 10.

12. (currently amended): A food comprising a water-soluble glucose polymer prepared according to the method ~~as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 8 of claim 1~~.

13. (currently amended): A food comprising a water-soluble glucose polymer prepared according to the method ~~as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 8 of claim 1~~, in the calcium-ion-exchanged form.